

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 132

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: KAULZA DE ARRIAGA CAMPAIGNS IN THE NORTH

REF LISBON A-116 AND PREVIOUS

1. NORTHERN OFFENSIVE: WHILE APRIL 25 FESTIVITIES DOMINATED RECENT HEADLINES IN LOCAL PRESS, BACK PAGES REPORTED TRAVELS OF GEN. KAULZA DE ARRIAGA PROMOTING HIS INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (MIRN). ARRIAGA TOURED ALL NORTHERN DISTRICTS OVER PAST THREE WEEKS. HE IS CURRENTLY RETURNING TO LISBON VIA COIMBRA, VISEU, AVEIRO AND LEIRIA. IN EACH DISTRICT CAPITAL ARRIAGA HOLDS SERIES OF MEETINGS AND DINNERS WITH GROUPS OF POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS. HIS SESSIONS ARE CLOSED TO THE PRESS.

2. SOME MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: PS SOURCE CHARACTERIZED ARRIAGA'S APRIL 20 MEETING IN VIANA DO CASTELO AS A GATHERING OF THE RICHEST SIXTY MEN IN THE REGION. ARRIAGA REPORTEDLY WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF PS MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND PREDICTED ITS EARLY DEMISE. FOLLOWING EARLIER MEETING IN BRAGA, ARRIAGA HELD PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE:

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--HIS ELECTION AS MIRN PRESIDENT AT MARCH 31 MIRN ASSEMBLY;
--"HIGHLY ENCOURAGING" REACTION TO HIS CURRENT NORTHERN CAMPAIGN OFFENSIVE;
--SELECTION OF COORDINATING COMMITTEES OF UP TO 20 MEMBERS FROM "HUNDREDS" OF INTERESTED APPLICANTS IN EACH DISTRICT CAPITAL VISITED;
--TIES WHICH COULD LEAD TO CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH REFUGEE

ORGANIZATION "O FRATERNA"; AND
--INTENTION TO MAKE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN OFFENSIVE IN THE
ALENTEJO AND ALGARVE DURING MAY AND SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC PRESENTATION
OF MIRN IN JUNE LISBON RALLY ATTENDED BY ALL DISTRICT
COMMITTEES.

3. ARRIAGA'S SCENARIO: ARRIAGA TOLD AMCONSUL IN APRIL 24 PRIVATE
ENCOUNTER THAT SOARES MUST RESIGN WITHIN THE YEAR. SOCIALISTS
IN HIS OPINION ARE INCAPABLE OF RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT ALONE.
FOLLOWING SOARES RESIGNATION, MIRN WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT
NON-MARXIST INDIVIDUALS AND PARTIES (READ PSD/CDS) PROVIDED
ALL AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER. SHOULD NEW GOVERNMENT
FORMATION PROVE IMPOSSIBLE AND PRESIDENT EANES CALL FOR
ELECTIONS AS PROVIDED UNDER CONSTITUTION, MIRN WOULD SUPPORT
DEMOCRATIC COALITION (READ PSD/CDS) OR CONTEST ELECTIONS
AS POLITICAL PARTY. ARRIAGA REITERATED THAT ANTI-DEMOCRATIC
EXTREMISTS HAVE NO PLACE IN MIRN. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT
SUCH ELEMENTS MIGHT BE ATTRACTED TO MIRN AND WAS THEREFORE
TAKING GREAT CARE IN SELECTING DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: SEVERAL MONTHS AGO ARRIAGA HELD A MIRN BRIEFING
SESSION IN OPORTO WHICH DISAPPOINTED MOST PARTICIPANTS. THIS
TIME AROUND HE SEEMS TO BE HAVING MORE SUCCESS. ARRIAGA
IS DRAWING MOST ON CDS SUPPORTERS BUT PSD MEMBERS ARE ALSO
IN EVIDENCE AT HIS MEETINGS. WEALTH AND BUSINESS STATURE ARE
COMMON DENOMINATORS. AS THE ECONOMY WORSENS, ARRIAGA'S
ATTRACTION GROWS BUT HE (AND MIRN) HAS YET TO APPEAR AS A
MEANINGFUL DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE.

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